Post 4/23/95

Query Gets Angry Response From Gingrich

Reuter

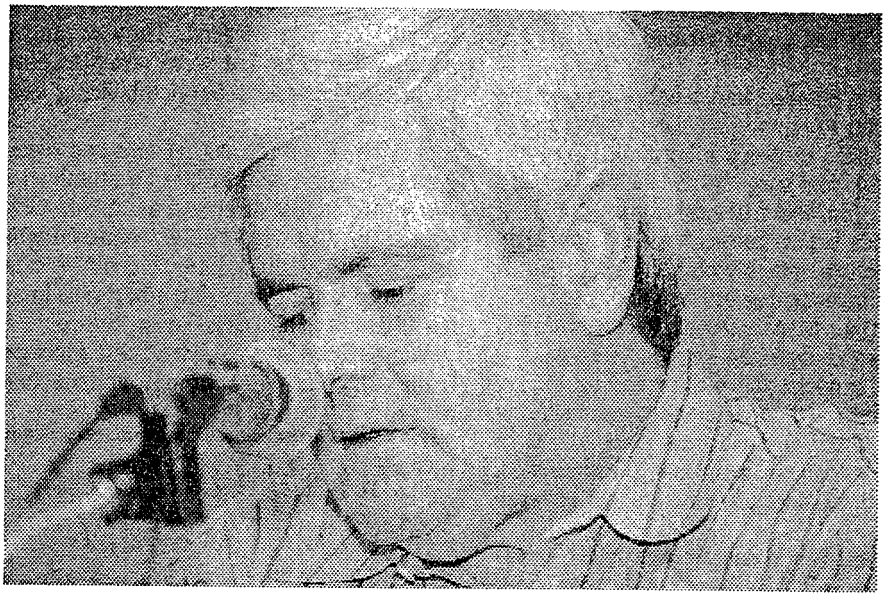
House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) reacted angrily yesterday to a suggestion that his attacks on government bureaucrats may have helped create a climate for the bomb attack on a federal building in Oklahoma City.

A reporter asked Gingrich whether he believed that the anti-government climate in which the Republicans came to power on Capitol Hill last November had made possible an attack on the building housing federal agencies. The reporter pointed out that many of the victims were federal government employees—the same people Gingrich and other conservative Republicans have railed against in countless political speeches.

"I think that's grotesque," an increasingly enraged and red-faced Gingrich said in reply to the reporter's question. "I think that's grotesque and offensive. I think that's very offensive on your part. I can't believe you would say that."

The newspaper reporter, unfazed by Gingrich's reaction, said: "I'm not so sure they feel that way. They've been singled out as 'bureaucrats' as if they don't have private lives."

At that the 51-year-old House speaker, fresh from a visit to the bomb site, responded: "It is grotesque to suggest that anybody in this country who raises legitimate questions about the size and scope of the federal government has any implication in this."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newt Gingrich speaks at Roswell, Ga., City Hall after pre-dawn visit to Oklahoma City.

Gingrich, who made an early morning stopover in Oklahoma City yesterday at the suggestion of senior FBI officials, later urged that the FBI be empowered to infiltrate groups believed to be involved in possible terrorist activities.

Investigators have suggested the bomb attack may have been carried out by right-wing extremists who are committed to unrestricted gun ownership and are opposed to the power of the federal government.

when were they not able to do this? K! an good example